

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 5, before the  
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

--This is a divisional application of application no. 09/928,153 filed on August 10, 2001.--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 1, line 19:

--As an alternative to wood fences, thermoplastic fencing assemblies have been provided with components formed to resemble wood fencing structures. Such thermoplastic assemblies include extruded, hollow tubes shaped to resemble planks. The "planks" are joined by horizontal "rails" and coupled to posts, all of which also consist of plastic, extruded tubes. Though such thermoplastic assemblies do not deteriorate in the same manner as does wood, the plastic fences of the prior art have their own disadvantages.--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 8, line 5:

--FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the preferred fence panel taken along lines 3-3 of FIG.1;--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 8, line 7:

--FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the preferred fence panel taken along lines 4-4 of FIG.1;--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 8, line 9:

--FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the preferred fence panel taken along lines 5-5 of FIG.1;--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 8, line 11:

--FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the preferred fence panel taken along lines 6-6 of FIG.1;--

Please substitute the following for the paragraph starting on page 13, line 16:

--One or more horizontal reinforcements 120 may be provided. In the preferred embodiment, top and bottom reinforcements 120 are provided. Each reinforcement 120 preferably comprises a pair of thermoplastic hollow bars 122, each bar 122 being coupled to its corresponding fence panel 10 on the rear surface 23 preferably by adhesion. In the preferred embodiment, the bars 122 are preferably rectangular so as to provide a flat surface that abuts the flat sections 45 of the panels 10. The bars 122 are preferably composed of a thermoplastic material and may be adhered to the panels 10 with adhesive material, such as polyvinyl chloride cement. The bars 122 are aligned to receive an insert 124 which is then fastened to the pair of bars 122. Outer end portions 126 of the bars are coupled to the posts 112, preferably by brackets 130. Vertical supports (not shown) may be optionally disposed in the stake recesses 65 adjacent to the rear creases 61. In the preferred embodiment, the posts 112 and reinforcement bars 122 are composed of a thermoplastic material, such as polyvinyl chloride.--